

THOUSANDS ATTEND CHAPMAN FUNERAL

Fill Church to Capacity and Block Nearby Streets During Impressive Services.

CLEVELAND, Aug. 20. — Raymond Chapman, star player of the Cleveland American League club and idol of local fans, this morning received the reverential homage of sorrowing Cleveland.

While the bell of St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, where the services were held, was tolling thousands of persons stood with bare heads as the body of Chapman, who died in New York last Tuesday, a victim of a pitched ball there on Monday, was carried to the altar and the last rites of the church were performed.

It was the largest funeral in Cleveland in years and not since the visit here of Cardinal Mercier, hero of Belgium, has such a mass of people attempted to enter the Cathedral.

Long before the services started thousands of persons congregated in the vicinity of the church awaiting the arrival of the casket and were unable to gain admission to the church. Tears were in the eyes of men, women and children in the throng, which was so dense that mounted police and patrolmen strove almost in vain to keep streets open to traffic.

The service, a solemn high requiem mass, was started at 10:15. Rev. Father W. S. Nash was the celebrant and the sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. William A. Scullen, Chancellor of the diocese, who paid Chapman an eloquent tribute.

Pays Eloquent Tribute.

Dr. Scullen's tribute to Chapman as a man and a ball player and his words of comfort to the immediate relatives brought tears to the eyes of thousands in the church.

In opening his sermon Dr. Scullen dwelt on the mysteries of life and death and took for his text the words of the Bible: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me shall not taste death forever."

"In paying this, our last tribute to one whom we loved and admired as much for his sterling manhood as for his ability as a ball player," Dr. Scullen said, "we are reminded of the mysteries of life and death and wonder how he who had played his part so honestly in our country's great war and in his chosen field could be so suddenly taken from among us. The answer lies in my text—He that believeth in Me, though dead, shall live."

"Chapman played the game of life as he played the game of his profession, cleanly and honestly. He was our friend as a ball player and as a man. Sterling athlete that he was, he never knew defeat. Courageous and with an indomitable spirit, he played his part in life honorably and he was a shining type of typical American youth and a great example for others."

"Clean, wholesome, gentle and true, he was the idol of this city as a ball player—but above all was his gentleness and kindness as a man."

Referring to the incident that caused Chapman's death, Dr. Scullen pleaded that "no hostile word should be uttered against the man who was the cause of the unfortunate accident."

Decries Thought of Revenge.

"He feels the outcome of it more deeply than most of us do," he said. "The great American game of baseball does not develop men who would willingly try to injure another participant in the game, and the game would not produce a man capable of killing another man. Chapman, we know, would be the first to decry any thought of revenge if he could but speak."

Dr. Scullen's final words were: "May the soul of this gentle, kindly youth, whom all Cleveland loved, rest in peace."

Chapman's widow, a bride of ten months, leaning on the arm of her father, entered the church immediately after the casket, which was borne by Chapman's closest friends on the team and in Cleveland. The ball player's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Chapman; his brother Roy and sister Margaret followed.

B. B. Johnson, President of the American League, and James C. Dunn, President of the Cleveland team, were among the first to reach the church. Several other club officials and players were present, including three players from the New York Americans.

The members of the Cleveland team arrived from New York this morning to attend the funeral, today's game at Boston having been postponed. Manager Tris Speaker and Outfielder Jack Graney collapsed and could not attend the services. Graney had recovered sufficiently, however, to leave for Boston tonight with the team. Speaker had a high fever tonight and did not go East. He may leave tomorrow.

The Cleveland players on arriving went to the home of M. D. Daly, Chapman's father-in-law, and viewed the body of their fellow player. They accompanied the funeral party to the church in automobiles and marched in pairs into the cathedral. Some of the players were accompanied by their wives.

All classes and walks of life were represented in the crowded church. Bankers and brokers rubbed elbows with laborers and newsboys. The crowd was made up of men, women and children from all parts of the city and from other cities, all gathered to pay their respects to the dead. Every foot of space in the church was occupied, including the aisles, the sanctuary and communion rail.

City Officials Present.

Mayor W. S. Fitzgerald was absent from the city today, but Law Director Woods, Acting Mayor; several members of the Mayor's Cabinet and several city Councilmen attended the service.

At the conclusion of the church service the body was placed in a cemetery vault. It has not been decided when Chapman will be buried.

The crowd gathered about the cathedral at the end of the services was even larger than that when the funeral party arrived. Street cars were halted for several blocks and traffic was completely tied up.

More than 300 floral offerings were sent by friends, among them being an immense floral blanket, a tribute from 20,623 persons—men, women and children—who contributed ten cents each to a "flower from a fan" fund, each dime to buy one flower.

The blanket contained 2,063 flowers. The remainder of the money in the fund will be turned over to the "Ray Chapman memorial fund" to erect a bronze memorial tablet at League Park.